



MEMORANDUM

To: Traffic Study Files

From: Upal Barua, P.Eng., PE
Traffic Engineering Division
Austin Transportation Department

Date: May 03, 2016

Subject: Speed Zone Investigation

Location: Grove Boulevard – East Riverside Drive to Hogan Avenue

Date(s) of Previous Investigation: None

A Traffic Engineering Investigation has been conducted by the Austin Transportation Department to determine the appropriate speed limit on Grove Boulevard between East Riverside Drive and Hogan Avenue.

Location Conditions

Grove Boulevard is a two-lane divided major arterial street with bike lanes and parking on both sides of the street that runs generally in a north-south direction between East Riverside Drive and Hogan Avenue. Left turn bays are provided at each intersection and a 15 foot median divides the northbound and southbound lanes. Apartments, townhouses, and Safe Place Austin have been developed on the east side of this section of Grove Boulevard. Austin Community College and Ruiz Branch Austin Public Library are located on the west side of Grove Boulevard.

The attached Figure 1 presents a map of the study area, the existing speed limit, and the proposed speed limit based on the following data and analysis.

Speed and Volume Data

A speed study was conducted in accordance with the Texas Procedures for Establishing Speed Zones. Speed and volume data were collected in April 2016 to determine the appropriate posted speed limit for Grove Boulevard. In 2016 an average of over 6,000 vehicles per day were recorded on Grove Boulevard between East Riverside Drive and Hogan Avenue.

The 85th percentile speed on the northbound and southbound lanes was recorded in the range of 33 miles per hour to 44 miles per hour. The average of 85th percentile speeds on Grove Boulevard was recorded at 37.5 miles per hour for the northbound and southbound lanes of traffic.

Block Number	Street Segment	Existing Speed Limit	85% Speed MPH		Traffic Volume (veh/day)
			NB	SB	
1800	From E. Riverside Dr. to Fairway Street	40	37	38	7789
1500	South of Safe Place driveway	40	44	39	7170
1100	North of ACC driveway.	40	34	33	3273

Crash Data

Austin Police Department's crash database was reviewed to analyze all documented crashes on the study segment within the previous two years. Five crashes were documented during this period; no discernible pattern from excessive speed is present.

Date / Time	Direction		Weather	Light	Road	Injury	Type of Crash
	At Fault	Other					
11/28/14 9:12 PM	SB	SB	Clear	Dark-lighted	Dry	Minor	Rear-end
4/30/15 3:12 PM	WB	NB	Clear	Day	Dry	None	Right-angle
09/14/15 8:47 AM	SB	SB	Clear	Day	Dry	Minor	Side-swipe
02/09/16 3:03 PM	EB	NB	Clear	Day	Dry	None	Right-angle
04/07/16 6:47 PM	WB	NB	Clear	Day	Dry	Fatality	Right-angle

General Comments

In 2003, Austin City Council passed Ordinance No. 030508-16 that set speed limits to 40 mph for Grove Boulevard from South East Riverside Drive to Hogan Avenue based on a speed study conducted in that time period. The area has changed significantly since 2003 with the development of apartments, town homes, a library and Austin Community College. In August of 2013, Grove Boulevard was changed from a four-lane divided major arterial to a two-lane divided arterial with bike lanes and parking on both sides of the roadway.

Recommendation

Based on an analysis of the location information and traffic data, the speed limit on Grove Boulevard from East Riverside Drive to Hogan Avenue should be established at 35 miles per hour.

